Year	National Network	Regional Network
1994	1	11
1995	2	11
1996 (till date)	2	07

Beds to be kept for free treatment in private hospitals

3004. **MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 to 50% of the beds in private hospitals are to be kept for free treatment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of private hospitals are flouting the norm; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In the past, private hospitals/nursing homes were allowed to import medical equipment at concessional rate of custom duty subject to the condition that certain percentage of free treatment will be provided in OPD/IPD to the poor. The State Governments are required to check whether these condition are being met by Private hospitals/Nursing home.

Permanent account numbers of income tax payers in the country

3005. **SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) the total number of income tax payers in the country as on date showing the number of body corporates and individual tax payers separately;

(b) whether permanent account numbers has been allotted to every income tax payer in the country; and

(c) if not, what is the backlog and by when all the tax payers are likely to be allotted permanent account number by the Income Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The information regarding number of income tax payers in the country is as under:

(i) total number of income tax payers as on 31-12-95 — 102.60 lakhs;

(ii) number of companies out of (i) above — 1.88 lakhs;

(iii) number of individuals out of (i) above — 84.26 lakhs; and

(iv) others — 16.46 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Substantial number of the tax payers have been allotted Permanent Account Number under old series. However as part of Comprehensive Computerisation and to ensure uniqueness in the first phase, Permanent Account Number under New Series is being allotted since April, 1995 in Delhi, Mumbai and Madras to taxpayers. Out of 17.31 lakh taxpayers, who had filed returns of income in these cities, 12.63 lakh taxpayers have filled in application forms required for allotment of PAN under the new series. Out of this 6,95,653 taxpayers have been allotted PAN under the new series and 4,39,524 forms were found deficient for which taxpayers have been approached.

Allotment of Permanent Account Number under new series in the rest of the country is being taken up in a phased manner.

Deregulating lending rate of Regional Rural Banks

3006. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to deregulate the lending rate of Regional Rural Banks (RRB's);

(b) whether any proposal was under consideration of Government since long;

(c) if so, the idea behind the proposal; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) In the context of the need for ensuring viability of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and ensuring the flow of adequate and sustainable credit to the rural sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has